



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 21, 2006

Concentrated animal feeding permit issued

OLYMPIA – The Department of Ecology announced that a new farm general permit has been issued for the protection of water quality. The permit is called the “Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and State Waste Discharge General Permit”

The permit requires CAFOs – such as cattle feedlots, dairies, and poultry or pig producers – to manage manure to avoid polluting rivers, lakes and underground aquifers. Animal feeding operations that discharge agricultural pollutants are required to obtain a permit. Smaller operations can be designated and required to obtain a permit. We expect it will apply to between 25 and 100 facilities statewide.

Under new federal rules, permitted animal producers are required to develop and implement plans for managing manure and submit reports annually to the state. Operators must show that they have an adequate amount of storage for manure. They also must keep animals out of surface water and assure manure used as fertilizer is applied appropriately to avoid pollution.

The CAFO permit will replace the dairy general permit that expired in March 2005. Ecology proposed a first draft in December 2004 and held hearings in January 2005. In February 2005, a court decision affected the federal CAFO rule. Ecology has revised and reissued the draft permit to reflect changes from the court decision and first comment period.

You can appeal the CAFO General Permit. Appeals of the general permit must be made within 30 days of issuance. The procedures and requirements for the appeal process are explained in RCW 43.21.B310. (“RCW” is the Revised Code of Washington).

If you have questions or would like printed copies mailed to you, please contact:

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You can also get forms and information by visiting the Department of Ecology’s Livestock Information website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/cafo/index.html>.

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Ecology’s Web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov>